

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Object Found on Santa Cruz Beach Being Treated as Possible Shuttle Piece

SANTA CRUZ – California State Parks has alerted federal authorities of the discovery of a small metallic object on a State Beach in Santa Cruz as possibly debris from the Columbia space shuttle that broke apart over the United States on Saturday.

Under direction of federal authorities, State Parks was treating the object as possible hazardous material. A NASA recovery team, in California to investigate other reports of possible shuttle debris being found, took possession of the object from State Parks Wednesday afternoon.

The object was found by a park visitor late Tuesday afternoon at Twin Lakes State Beach, about a half mile from Santa Cruz Harbor. The female visitor called 9-1-1, and State Parks was alerted to the discovery.

A State Parks supervising lifeguard responded to the scene. He reported finding the object in wet sand near the high tide line. In order to secure the object, the lifeguard supervisor donned protective gloves, picked up the object, bagged it and took it to a State Parks facility for safe keeping.

The object was described as cylindrical in shape, about 15 inches long, and octagonal. It had hash marks on one of the flat sides like lines on a ruler. It was bent at a 90-degree angle about six inches from one end.

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